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as such, are wanting in human blood, but since we have had our attention directed by Hayem to the fact that the "hæmatoblasts" play an important part in the coagulation of the frog's blood, it is possible to think that some element is present in mammalian blood which also acts as a factor in coagulation. The coagulation of the frog's blood begins with the grouping of the "hæmatoblasts" into a rosette form. The red corpuscles then arrange themselves radially about this point as a centre. Do we find an analogous process at the commencement of the coagulation of mammalian blood? The blood of mammals coagulates very rapidly, whereas that of the frog changes very slowly; hence, if we would study the blood of mammals before coagulation, we must prevent this process by means of some reagent. Such an experiment cannot be tried with a human being, but is easily made with a dog. The reagent usually employed is peptone, which is injected in solution into the jugular vein of the dog, the amount injected being 0.3 grain peptone for every kilogramme weight of the dog. The microscopical examination of blood in which coagulation has thus been prevented shows that there exist in the blood, aside from the other elements, tiny tablet-like granules which tend to cling together in clumps. These elements were described by Bizozzer, and called by him "blutplättchen." It thus seems probable that the "blutplättchen" have something to do with the coagulation of the blood. That they also exist in human blood is evident from their presence in our preparation as small, faintly-tinged bodies, which lie in groups of twos and threes together. They did not disappear from the blood we employed, because we did not give it time to coagulate before fixing it. Therein lies the advantage of this method in the examination of human blood. It gives us not only the possibility to distinguish the different elements of the blood, but through it, it has been possible to discover elements which, like the "hæmatoblasts," accompany the phenomenon of coagulation, and also to determine in part the relation that exists between the elements. It would not agree with the general plan of nature if every form did not play a different rôle in the organism, and after all that has been discovered it is not improbable that we shall one day be able, through watching the changes which the different elements undergo in the blood, to discover the disturbances caused by different ferments and organisms in the blood. Thus we think that the hope of clever physicians may one day be verified, that the analysis of a drop of blood may give a clue to the pathological changes in the body.—*Alice Leonard Gaule.*

PSYCHOLOGY.

Intelligence of Echinoderms.—The experiments of Professor Preyer upon starfish and ophiurids tend to prove that they are

not entirely devoid of intelligence. In one series of experiments a piece of tubing was placed over one of the rays of a brittle star, so as to enclose it from its base nearly to its apex. Different individuals adopted different modes of ridding themselves of the tube, and one failing, would try another. Sometimes they rubbed the tube off by friction on the ground; if this was useless, they would hold down the tube with the other rays while drawing the imprisoned ray through it, or they would push the tube off with the serrated edges of the two adjoining rays, or, as a last resource, would cast off the imprisoned arm.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—The meeting of the German Naturalists' Association will be held this year at Wiesbaden, from the 18th to the 24th of September. Herr Dreyfuss, 44 Frankfurter-strasse, Wiesbaden, is the secretary of the local committee.

—The San Diego Natural History Society have had a present of a valuable lot of land, and propose soon to erect a building.

—Dr. R. W. Shufeldt criticises—and deservedly so—the veterinary service of the United States army. He would elevate it by placing it on much the same basis as the regular medical corps.

—John Sang, a British entomologist of note, died March 2, 1887, of valvular disease of the heart, at the age of fifty-nine. He was especially interested in the moths, and was a zoological artist of no mean powers.

—Dr. J. S. Poljakow, the Siberian explorer and conservator of the Zoological Museum of the University of St. Petersburg, died in that city April 17, 1887.

—The late Miss Lucretia Crocker, of the school board of Boston, was influential in the support of the Annisquam laboratory from the year of its foundation, as well as an earnest advocate of the teaching of the biological sciences in the public schools. It is now proposed to raise two "Lucretia Crocker scholarships" in connection with the new Marine Laboratory, to be occupied each season by two teachers of the Boston public schools. Twenty-five hundred dollars are necessary for the purpose.

—Princeton College is to have a new biological laboratory in the early future.

—The new building for the Zoological Museum at Berlin is completed, excepting the internal finishing. This, it is estimated, will take until April 1, 1888, and then the collections will be